

SENATE BILL 2411

By Crutchfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 48, Chapter 101, Part 3, and to include provisions to provide for public television stations and all their facilities, equipment and structures as an authorized project.

WHEREAS, the education and welfare of the citizens of this state is dependent in part upon the programs of public television stations; and

WHEREAS, greater resources will be required for public televisions to expand their facilities to meet the licensing requirements of the Federal Communications Commission for the broadcast of digital television; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 48-101-301, is amended by adding the following as an appropriately designated new subdivision:

"Public Television Station" means any television or telecommunications facilities of any institution organized on a not-for-profit basis and authorized by law to provide for the citizens of this state the broadcast of television programs designed for education and enrichment, including, without limitation, educational programs designed to reach the primary level, secondary level, beyond the secondary level in this state, and to reach the general population for their education and enrichment;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 48-101-301, is amended by adding the following as an appropriately designated new subdivision:

"Project" in the case of an entity, organization, association, educational institution, or not-for-profit engaged in the production and broadcast of television programs, means a structure, facility, machinery, equipment, or other property suitable for use by an educational institution or not-for-profit organization for the broadcast of television programs to the public, primarily for educational and enrichment purposes, including, but not limited to, a site therefore, administrative facilities, assembly facilities, auditoriums, campus, communication facilities, computer facility, continuing education facility, classroom, dining facilities, exhibit facilities, food service and preparation facilities, research facilities, storage facilities, broadcast studios, production facilities, towers, antennas of any and every kind, reception equipment, transmission equipment, electronic equipment, vehicles, or any combination of the foregoing or other property necessary for its operations or proposed operations;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 48-101-302, is amended by adding the following, appropriately designated new subdivision:

(d) In conjunction with the above purposes of this part, it is further determined and declared that it is for the benefit of the people of the state of Tennessee, the increase of their commerce, welfare and prosperity, and improvement and maintenance of their living conditions, including, without limitation, that public television stations operated by nonprofit institutions, corporations, associations, or similar entities, be provided with appropriate additional means to assist in the development, operation and maintenance of the educational facilities and processes of the citizens of the state through the medium of television broadcasting designed to assist citizens of all levels of formal education, and the educational enrichment of citizens in addition to formal education of facilities that would help aid and achieve a higher level of learning and

development of the intellectual and mental capacities, the enrichment of their lives, the development or enhancement of professional, technical or occupational skills, and that it is the intent of the general assembly by the passage of this part to facilitate the foregoing purchases and construction stated herein to the fullest extent permitted through the operation of public television broadcasting facilities as elsewhere defined herein.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.